

Claims

Having thus described our invention, what is claimed is:

1. A mobile agent management apparatus comprising:

a plurality of agent servers; and

5 a registration server for maintaining location information of mobile agents,

wherein each of said plurality of agent servers comprises:

means for maintaining history of movement of each of said
mobile agents; and

10 request means for periodically generating requests for updating location information of each of said agents to renew location information at said registration server.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein each of said agent servers further comprises a counter for accumulating a count of
15 the number of movements of corresponding mobile agents.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein each of said agent servers further comprises comparator means for comparing the count in said counter with a predetermined threshold.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the request
20 generator of each of said agent servers generates a request to

said registration server for updating location information when the an accumulated number of movements of a corresponding mobile agent exceeds the predetermined threshold.

5 5. The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein said registration
server comprises at least one register for maintaining
accumulated number of movements and locations of each of said
mobile agents in an associated manner and renews said location
information of each of said mobile agents only upon receipt of
requests for updating location information associated with a
10 higher accumulated number of movement.

15 6. A method for managing locations of mobile agents by
using a plurality of agent servers and a registration server
for maintaining locations of mobile agents comprising the steps
of:

15 on each of said agent servers;

maintaining history of movement of each of said mobile
agents; and

periodically generating requests for updating and deleting
registries; and

20 at said registration server, renewing location information
of each of said mobile agents kept by said registration server
with said requests for updating and deleting.

7. The method of Claim 7 wherein each of said agent servers accumulates a count of number of movements of corresponding mobile agents.

8. The method of Claim 7 further comprising comparing said accumulated number of movements to a threshold number of movements.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said generating is done when said accumulated number of movements exceeds said threshold number of movements.

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